

# Occupational therapy ups functioning in frail seniors

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(HealthDay)—For physically frail older adults, occupational therapy is

associated with improved functioning, according to a review published online April 3 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Leen De Coninck, from the KU Leuven in Belgium, and colleagues conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to examine the effectiveness of [occupational therapy](#) for improving performance in daily living activities among community-dwelling physically frail older people. Data were included from nine studies that met the inclusion criteria.

The researchers found that the studies were of reasonable quality with low risk of bias. Significant increases were seen in all primary outcome measures: mobility, functioning in daily living activities, and social participation. The pooled result was a standardized mean difference of –0.30 for functioning in daily living activities, –0.44 for [social participation](#), and –0.45 for mobility. Positive trends were seen for all secondary outcome measures, with a significant correlation for fear of falling. There were no adverse effects for occupational therapy.

"There is strong evidence that occupational [therapy](#) improves functioning in community-dwelling physically frail older people," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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